



LGBTQIA+ Rainbow Commission Minutes

Date: Thursday, February 15, 2024

Time: 6:30 pm

Location: Conducted by Hybrid Participation -Arlington Community Center HHS Conference Room and via Zoom

This will be a hybrid meeting. Individuals may choose one of the following in-person or virtual options:

1. Attend in person in the 2nd Floor HHS Conference Room at the Community Center (Senior Center), 20 Academy Street/27 Maple Street. Registration not required for in-person attendance.
2. ***Notice to the Public on meeting privacy*** In the interests of preventing abuse of videoconferencing technology (i.e. Zoom Bombing) all participants, including members of the public, wishing to engage via the Zoom App must register for each meeting and will notice multi-step authentication protocols. Further, members of the public who wish to participate without providing their name may still do so by registering to receive the meeting info and using the telephone dial in information provided.

Please read Governor Baker's Executive Order Suspending Certain Provision of Open Meeting Law for more information regarding virtual public hearings and meetings: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/open-meeting-law-order-march-12-2020/download>

Present: Molly Blaauw Gillis, Paloma Cotton-Herman, Lisa Krinsky, Fiona Perry, Andy Robinson

Absent: Kari Sasportas

Guests: Jill Harvey, DEI, Chief Julie Flaherty, APD

Minutes – Lisa Krinsky

Meeting called to order at: 6:32pm

Minutes

1. Remote Participation Statement and Guidelines
2. Land Acknowledgement
3. Review and approval of January 2024 Minutes 1st motion: AR 2nd motion: FP
Unanimous vote to approve
4. Consent Agenda 1st motion: PHC 2nd motion: AR. Unanimous vote to approve.
5. Co-Chair Update (5 min)
 - a. MLK 2025 committee recruiting

- b. Civic academy starts again soon – meets for 6 meetings
- c. Commissioner recruitment: 2 applications ongoing + school committee appt
- d. Vote to approve 2024 Draft Rainbow Commission events calendar
 - 1st motion: MBG, 2nd motion: AR. Unanimous approval of RC events calendar
- e. Vote to approve 2024 list of meeting dates
 - 1st motion: FP; 2nd motion: MBG. Unanimous approval

6. Liaison Updates

- a. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI)
 - 2nd Annual Lunar New Year program was a success, attendance close to 300, activities and performances. Really well received and appreciated by community and looking forward to community leading it next year but with support from DEI
 - Town was awarded a Municipal ADA Improvement Grant from MOD to build covered and protected adaptive tricycle storage at Ed Burns arena in conjunction with the Hill's Hill redesign for \$186,000- grant submitted by Tim, and will be working to ensure this is complete by June
 - MLK Committee- is in need of new leadership and members. In order for the program to continue the committee does need more support and community volunteers
 - REACH update- session is 2/14 for team so will give brief update
 - On Tuesday 2/27 from 6-8pm in Main Hall, Community Center, DEI Division and the Children's Room, hosting [Box of Memories and Hope: Creatively Working with Grief in Community](#)
 - Know Your Rights Training with MCAD, there will be two opportunities to participate
 - [In person on Tuesday 3/26](#) from 6-7:30 in Main Hall in Community Center
 - [Virtually on Wednesday 3/27](#) from 6:30-8pm on zoom
- b. Police Department (APD)
 - Collaborating with state police on activities that include Arlington and beyond.
 - New class of recruits will be joining the APD soon.
- c. GSA/QSA-AHS/Ottoson/Gibbs – none
- d. Library - Queer Book Group at Robbins Library will meet on Wednesday March 27th. The book we will be discussing is *This Town Sleeps* by Dennis Staples. The publisher's book description is "an unsolved murder becomes the fixation of an Indigenous American man living in far northern Minnesota as he grapples with his relationship with a closeted white man. Louise Erdrich describes it as a "tender, suspenseful, irresistible first novel that explores Indigenous legend, queer relationship, and the power of landscape and lineage to shape our lives." Staples is an Ojibwe writer from Minnesota. Copies of *This Town Sleeps* are available at the Robbins Library circulation desk. The book is also available on Hoopla and Libby. The book group discussion on Wednesday March 27th will be from 7:00-8:00 p.m. at the Robbins Library 4th floor conference room and on Zoom. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82574195308> Meeting ID: 825 7419 5308 Newcomers are always welcome.
- e. Select Board – none
- f. Council on Aging- For Arlington and Beyond LGBTQ+ Seniors and Friends, the upcoming month+ looks like this: **(All programs open to all & all ages!!)**
 - February 17 (Sat) 11AM in person only, Bedford CoA, lunch & the Kinsey Scales concert
 - February 20 (Tues) 2PM on zoom only, social support and current events discussion
 - February 27 (Tues) 2PM in person, monthly crafting and social time, ARL senior center
 - March 5 (Tues) 2:15PM in person only, Tea Talk with AHS International students, ARL senior center
 - March 12 (Tues) 2PM on zoom only, social support and games
 - March 19 (Tues) 2PM in person, Dementia Friendly talk by LGBTQIA+ Aging Project, ARL senior center

March 26 (Tues) 2PM on zoom only, social support and current events

7. Working Group Updates (15 min total)

a. Education

- APS/ARC w/AHRC Community Conversation Day of Learning– Focus on refugees On 2/10 well attended. Suggestion for “difficult conversations” as another topic
- APS/ARC- Community Conversation w/ Chief Flaherty and students. Also hosting nonbinary author; Request for \$130 for train ticket . 1st motion: MBG; 2nd motion PCH. Unanimous vote to fund speaker’s travel.
- APS/Pride – May 18th 11am at AHS.

b. Community Engagement

- Upcoming events (see list below)
- Pride planning – smaller workgroups will meet by end of month
- TDOV 3/30 First Parish1pm. Multigenerational panel of trans folks.
- Request for food/snacks funding. Motion PCH. 2nd MBG. Unanimous approval
- Rainbows Across Communities: moving meeting for more engagement.
- Cross community calendar – not just Pride events.
- Community Partner Engagement: represented ARC at Lunar NY event

c. Town Systems & Policies: no activity to report

d. Communications: Newsletter going out with all updates

e. Budget: need itemized spending for FY24 budget and FY 25 budget.

8. Focus Topic: Working Groups overview (20 min)

- a. Community Engagement: on target with goals
- b. Town Systems: HRC MEI + working on ERGs for Town. LEK review goals/opportunities – AHA, Arlington Welcomes (with Chamber of Commerce)
- c. Education: Work to be integrated into APS; will continue
- d. Comms: newsletter, special events,
- e. Budget: may not continue as workgroup; co-chair will oversee budget and share with

9. Public Engagement and Open Commentary – none

10. Close: 1st motion to adjourn: PCH 2nd motion: MBG unanimous vote at 7:27pm.

Next Meeting. Thursday, March 21, 2024. 6:30pm Hybrid

Upcoming Events

- Human Rights Commission [Free Film Screening: The Color Purple, February 22nd, 7 p.m. Capital Theatre](#)
- Arlington DEI and Children’s Room, [Box of Memories and Hope: Creatively Working with Grief in Community](#), February 27th, 6 p.m.
- ARC/APS LGBTQIA+ Rainbow Task Force Community Conversation on Wednesday, March 13th, 5:15 p.m.
- Trans Day of Visibility, March 30
- Know Your Rights MCAD Training
 - [In person on Tuesday 3/26](#) from 6-7:30 in Main Hall in Community Center
 - [Virtually on Wednesday 3/27](#) from 6:30-8pm on Zoom